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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Why no action?

Another Independence Day, the 237th, was celebrated around America last week and rightly so. We have much for which to be thankful – and grateful. God's hand and human sacrifices too numerous to list have built this country into a powerful, modern-day haven for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Sadly, there aren't a lot of countries on this planet today where that can happen.

There is at least one American who missed the celebrations. He didn't get the day off. He didn't enjoy barbeque ribs or potato salad or baked beans, if he got a meal at all. He didn't get to salute the flag or pledge allegiance to it or watch a fireworks extravaganza, and he most certainly didn't get the chance to sing the national anthem.

However, Saeed Abedini likely was aware that his country has all but abandoned him.

The Iranian-born, naturalized American citizen remains an inmate in the harshest prison in his native country, convicted in a kangaroo court of spying and otherwise doing harm to the country.

He is also a Christian pastor, which is his primary crime in eyes of the radical Islamist regime that runs Iran, whether or not anyone wants to admit it.

Abedini, who frequently traveled to Iran to visit family and work on projects such as the orphanage under construction where he was arrested last summer, has been brutally beaten, isolated, and denied critical medical care while being held in Evin Prison in the northwest section of Tehran. Because he is a Christian, he is considered unclean and untouchable.

In an effort to break his spirit (as if the physical mistreatment wasn't enough), prison authorities have threatened to move him to a remote prison where his family will not be able to visit him.

He has faced constant pressure from government officials to renounce his Christian faith, but he has refused to do so. Like the martyrs of old, he remains steadfast.

In a letter smuggled out of Evin Prison earlier this year, he wrote, "I heard that the persecution, my arrest and imprisonment has united churches from different denominations, from different cities and countries, that would never come together because of their differences. You don't know how happy I was in the Lord and rejoiced knowing that in my chains the body of Christ has chained together and is

brought to action and prayer."

While Abedini's situation may have brought Christians together, it apparently hasn't in the least alarmed officials in the Obama administration. Except for a few milquetoast statements carefully crafted not to unsettle the radical Islamists running the government in Iran, there has been virtually no publicly-reported action taken to bring home this American citizen.

On March 22, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry issued one of those few statements that read in part, "I am disturbed by reports that Mr. Abedini has suffered physical and psychological abuse in prison, and that his condition has become increasingly dire. Such mistreatment violates international norms as well as Iran's own laws."

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice in Washington, D.C., is representing Abedini's wife and two young children. He has noticed the Obama Administration's apparent lack of urgency regarding Abedini.

"This year, the international community – including the European Union and the (United Nations) Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran – have spoken out clearly and directly for Pastor Saeed, but his own adopted nation has done less for him than the EU, less than Australia," Sekulow complained.

How is it that the reputedly most powerful nation on earth cannot secure the release of a single citizen from a small country run by inept fanatics and almost universally disrespected? Why is the U.S. government so concerned with not offending Iran, while one of its citizens is being beaten nearly to death on a regular basis and denied medical care?

None of us want to believe it's true, but it could be because Saeed Abedini is a Christian pastor. It could be because unjustly imprisoned Christian pastors are seen as less important than maintaining good international relations with Muslim countries. It could be because some people in our government simply don't care.

Abedini is right that his plight has brought Christians together. Now it's time for Christians to demand that the U.S. government take whatever action is necessary to bring home one of our own.

Frankly, it shouldn't even matter whether he is a Christian pastor. He is an American, and it's just the right thing to do.

Keep prayer in summer

We've entered the dog days of summer (July and August), the often oppressive and sweltering time of year. It coincides with traditional summer slumps in church attendance, as families scatter for summer vacations and other seasonal activities. However, our need for prayer is never greater. Here are five suggestions to make your dog days of summer sparkle with spiritual freshness:



Guest opinion
with Phil Miglioratti

■ **Family table time.** Ask each church family to use at least one family meal each week to pray for their neighbors, whether those who live nearby, people with whom they work, or fellow students. Keep a log of the names and needs of those the Lord leads toward in prayer. During a Sunday morning service in August, ask families to come prepared to share their prayers and God's responses.

■ **Church picnic.** Before the festivities begin, ask every family to form a circle facing inward, and to pray for the church, its spiritual health, its ministry vision, and its evangelistic effectiveness. Reverse positions to face outward and pray for the community, its needs, its leaders, and the church's influence on it.

■ **Weeknight prayer meeting.** Take the midweek prayer service outside. Those who cannot handle the walk or the heat may stay inside and pray using this as a template. Ask everyone to pray with their eyes open, looking at and praying for God's good creation; the church facilities; residential areas; schools; and recreational, medical, or business districts to the north, to the east, to the south, and to the west.

■ **Secret saint.** Ask everyone in the congregation to become a secret intercessor. Prepare cards with the names of your church family for distribution on a Sunday morning – perhaps a reverse offering where everyone picks a name as a basket is passed. Ask the church fam-

ily, including youth and older children, to pray each day for a week for the person whose name they drew. The following Sunday, simply ask for testimonies of what it was like to pray once a day for their person or if anyone sensed a special blessing from the Lord because someone was praying for them.

■ **Pastoral prayer.** Recruit volunteers to pray aloud for the pastor each Sunday during the summer. Encourage them to pray from their deepest passion.

Rather than succumb to the slowed-down, casual atmosphere of summer, put those dog days to good use.

■ **Prayer.** Encourage every member and family to invite the Holy Spirit to alert them every day to special summer-time opportunities to pray for people they may only see in July or August.

■ **Care.** Show the love of Christ to them through practical and appreciated acts of service or mercy.

■ **Share.** Invite them to investigate the often misunderstood message of the Gospel. Let's love our communities to Christ.

Miglioratti is state prayer consultant for the Illinois Baptist State Association and serves on the Mission America Coalition facilitation committee's LOVE 2020, a "prayer-care-share" ministry initiative.

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VOLUME 137 • NUMBER 27 • ISSN-0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Seminary leaders weigh in on Supreme Court rulings



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NASHVILLE (BP) — Though the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings two weeks ago against traditional marriage was a "dark day in American history," it's time to accept the reality and move on to discussing how to minister in a new context, Jeff Iorg and other Southern Baptist seminary leaders are saying.

"Challenging new ministry situations are on the horizon," Iorg, president of Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Ca. — near the epicenter of the gay marriage movement — wrote in a blog post June 27.

"For example, a child comes to your Vacation Bible School and receives Jesus as Savior and Lord. His same-sex married parents come for the family night program. How will you react to their presence?" Iorg wrote.

"A person in a gay marriage commits himself to Jesus and requests baptism in your church. How will your church respond to his profession of faith?" Iorg wrote. "One person in a same-sex marriage becomes a Christian and wants to end their marriage. The couple has children. Do you endorse this divorce and risk the custody of the children being awarded to the unbeliever?"

Sharing the Gospel must be the priority amid the cultural shift, Iorg said, and the church must uphold its convictions about moral purity and advocate for biblical marriage. Compromising isn't the solution, he said.

Another ministry challenge, Iorg wrote, will be helping Christians learn to navigate gay marriage as they encounter it in the public square.

"Christians work in companies, hospitals, schools and governmental agencies which must now legally provide services to gay married couples. Churches will be challenged to help their members think theologically about and behave ethically in these situations," he wrote.

Dark days are opportunities for bright light, Iorg pointed out.

Daniel Akin

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said in comments to Baptist Press that the Supreme Court decision striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was disappointing, though not surprising.

"We have seen this coming for a long time. As for the future, the church's mission remains the same: We will boldly proclaim the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, heralding the truth that 'whosoever calls upon the Name of the Lord will be saved' and that every person can be delivered from the slavery of sin that seeks to enslave us all," Akin said.

Believers must continue to love and serve those with whom they disagree, Akin said. "And we will continue to advocate God's revealed plan and pattern for marriage and family, a plan that promotes human flourishing and a pattern that depicts the love that Jesus Christ has for His Bride, the church, which He purchased with His own blood."

Daniel Heimbach

Daniel Heimbach, senior professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Seminary, expressed disappointment that the new ministry context was handed down by the judicial branch of the federal government.

"In the land of the free and home of the brave, disagreement over something so fundamental as marriage should be left to the people as instructed by conscience, tradition, and faith," Heimbach wrote in comments to Baptist Press, "but what the Supreme Court majority has done is enshrine into the Constitution a radical redefinition of marriage under which sexual difference makes no difference.



Hundreds of same-sex marriage supporters await the July 26 landmark rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court at a rally in front of the court building in Washington, D.C. The jurists struck down portions of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and allowed to stand a lower court ruling nullifying California's Prop 8, a successful statewide proposition defining marriage as heterosexual in nature. (BP photo)

"This is a tragedy that exalts private desires over the public good and sentiment over God's ordering of creation."

The DOMA decision, Heimbach said, "brands faithful Christians as un-American bigots driven, not by faith or even reason, but by nothing more than 'bare ...desire to harm.' Such aspersion is not only completely false but demonstrates deeply rooted animus toward those who cling to faith in the wisdom and power of God."

Evan Lenow

Evan Lenow, assistant professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, wrote in a blog post that June 26 is a date he will remember as the day that marriage changed forever in American society.

"What is next for our society? We can be thankful that the Supreme Court did not offer a new definition of marriage today. However, I still believe it is safe to say that we are heading toward the demise of marriage as the foundational institution of society," Lenow wrote.

The term, "marriage," is quickly losing its meaning, the professor wrote, noting that U.S. President Barack Obama used his Twitter account to claim all love is equal when it comes to marriage.

"The logical conclusion of such a claim is societal acceptance of not only same-sex 'marriage' but also acceptance of polygamy, polyamory, incest, and ultimately pedophilia," Lenow wrote. "We may even live to see the day when the term 'marriage' has no significance whatsoever."

If marriage collapses as a social institution, we will see more crime and poverty, and we will see less education and children.

Lenow wrote that despite this upheaval, God's design for marriage in Genesis 2 — one man and one woman for a lifetime — has not changed. Christians, though, can expect a long and difficult road ahead, he pointed out.

"We will likely be marginalized in the cultural discussion of marriage. We will be called bigots and homophobes. We may even experience discrimination for our views," Lenow wrote, pointing to Jesus' warning in John 15:18-19 that the world would hate His followers.

"Our task is to proclaim the Gospel faith-

fully knowing that true change in society only comes when hearts are changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Denny Burk

Denny Burk, associate professor of biblical studies at Boyce College, the undergraduate school of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., discussed in a blog post June 27 whether proponents of same sex marriage will allow any legal accommodation for the consciences of those who believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman.

"What if a Christian university were to decide to limit its married student housing to heterosexual couples? Will there be any accommodation for this under the new regime?" Burk asked. "The more I have read, the more I have become concerned that very little accommodation will be forthcoming. Proponents of gay marriage are not interested in protecting the religious liberty of traditional marriage supporters."

The Supreme Court's majority opinion in the DOMA case makes the problem worse, Burk wrote, because it renders a moral judgment against traditional marriage supporters. "Why would anyone want to be magnanimous toward those who seek to 'demean,' to 'impose inequality' and a 'stigma' on gay people, to deny gay people 'equal dignity,' to treat them as 'unworthy,' and to 'humiliate' their children?"

"That's how the Supreme Court describes traditional marriage supporters. As that opinion moves into the cultural mainstream, it's difficult to imagine why the majority would make accommodations for the consciences of those they regard as bigots."

Christians need to be ready for a new reality, Burk wrote, including a culture that is increasingly hostile toward them. "Private citizens may someday face fines and other penalties for their convictions on marriage. Our churches may eventually lose tax-exempt status. Any number of negative outcomes are possible in the approaching conflagration."

"Ours will likely be a costly love and a costly witness. But this is precisely the kind of discipleship that Jesus has called all of us to, and it will be worth it in the end (Matthew 16:25)."

The great missionary, evangelist, preacher, teacher and theologian Paul wrote more books of the New Testament than anyone else. The subjects as well as the insights range across the full spectrum of human need and God's response to save us. Having been used as God's instrument to bring the message to the rest of creation, what do you suppose his favorite verse might be? Now honestly I think that if you were sitting across the table from the Apostle Paul and asked him what was his favorite verse of scripture that he had the privilege of writing, you might see a twinkle in his eye and you might almost hear the wheels turning in his brilliant mind contemplating all of the incredible things that he had written. From the brilliance of the theological perspectives in Romans, Ephesians and Colossians to the warm heartedness of pastoral care as he wrote in I Timothy, II Timothy and Titus, I wanted to quickly point out about a dozen verses that surely would have to be on his list of favorites. But since in this format space is critical, I will just suggest to you one verse that could well be Paul's favorite.

It is found in maybe the most quoted book that Paul wrote, the letter to the Philippians. He said, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Phil. 3:10). Why would I think that this may be his favorite verse and the one that was the guiding spotlight of his life? I suggest that because it is seen virtually everywhere in some dimension of all of his life whether it is during an imprisonment, preaching on a hillside or writing to a confused, cantankerous and immature church. Paul rarely ever varied from his desire to know Jesus better and to know Him in all of His fullness.

Recently, I was reminded of the great Apostle Paul when during Vacation Bible School they had an evangelistic presenta-



Paul's Favorite Verse

tion of Jesus and His saving power. The children who felt led to respond to give their life to Jesus would sit down with prepared counselors to talk to them about the decision that they were making and to lead them in their encounter with the Lord. One of my grandsons came to the room where they were meeting. He walked in and one of the staff members seeing him spoke to him and said something like, "Is there anything that I can help you with?" The boy responded, "Well, I already know Jesus as my Savior, I just came in here because I wanted to know Him better." That sweet, gentle and childlike but amazing thought is not unlike what the Apostle Paul gave us in this verse.

Here in the opening of this verse is the simplicity and the awesome fullness of the Gospel—that I may know Him. Throughout his ministry, whether before kings or paupers, the Apostle Paul was eager to share I have met Him. On that road that led to Damascus which became the pathway to the feet of Jesus he met the living Lord. From then on it was an everyday new sunrise occasion that I may know

Him. The Apostle Paul never talked about knowing about Jesus. He knew about Jesus before he ever met Him. But he was always quick to focus on the fact that he actually knew Him. Do you know Him and not just know about him, or not just about what He said, what He did or the events of His life? Have you by faith trusted Him as your Savior and Lord and come to know Him as the forgiver of your sins and the life giver for ever and ever?

Beyond that Paul said two incredible things about what he wanted to know about Jesus. One was that he wanted to know the power of His resurrection. What a celebration can take place in the believer's heart to know Jesus in the power of His resurrection. You see the Bible points out that our greatest, frightful enemy is death itself. When you come to understand that the Jesus that you know as your Savior conquered death, you can know what it means to live in the power of the resurrection. Everything else you may be facing in life, in relationships, in work, and in challenges are less than death itself. If Jesus is able to conquer death and

He is your Lord, He can enable you to face everything in life. What a celebration!

Then Paul said, "I want to know the fellowship of his sufferings being made conformable unto His death." What is he saying? None of us want to face sufferings and trials. We will, but we do not particularly like it. What would Jesus do when He came to the cross and faced the suffering that would be His for those hours until He died? Well here is what took place on that cross as Jesus was dying. Moment by moment and breath by breath Jesus trusted God. In some of His last breaths, He said, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." In His very last moments, He trusted that God would take care of Him and He never wavered.

How many of us have come to those earthshaking, soul quaking kind of moments where something has happened and we wonder where God is and if we can trust Him? The Apostle Paul said I want to know Him in a way that is just like when Jesus came to that moment in His life where He faced suffering and death and He kept trusting the Father. Some of you may say well Jesus knew that the Father was going to raise Him from the dead. He knew that the Father was going to take care of Him. Correct He did know that and so do you. You can trust God regardless of what the circumstances look like or how deafening the sounds of discord and disturbance may be. God will take care of you.

The old hymn says, "Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you." And so, I join with the Apostle Paul and indeed with my grandson in saying, "I know Jesus, but I just want to know Him better."

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

NIGERIA

cont. from p. 1

Kwiza, Boko Haram firebombed five churches in the Mandara Hills area at night while chanting "Allahu Akbar" ("Allah is Great") and stole grain and livestock before leaving at sunrise, the Nigerian newspaper Vanguard News reported.

Mandara Hills is home to several Christian communities in Borno.

All the attacked villages are located near the borders of the Borno forest, Christians said, though Nigerian government forces earlier claimed they had captured the area from Boko Haram during anti-terrorist operations.

Obed Dashan, Church of Christ in Nations general secretary, told Morning Star News that Christians in Borno are traumatized by the attacks. "Boko Haram terrorists' activities especially in Borno and Yobe states have not only impacted negatively on

Christians there but also led to creating communities that are traumatized and paralyzed economically. Ministering to such a church that is traumatized can be very difficult."

Last year, more than 900 Christians were killed in Nigeria because of their faith, accounting for more than 70% of Christians killed globally and outpacing Christian casualties in Pakistan, Syria, Kenya, and Egypt combined, according to Morning Star News.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Digital photos may be submitted via either e-mail. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

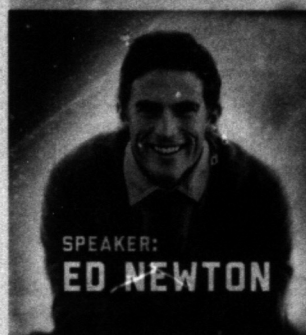
HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 11, 2013

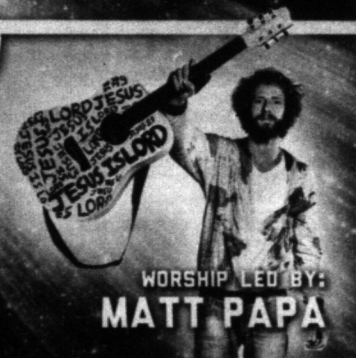
HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

YOUTH NIGHT



SPEAKER:
ED NEWTON

COLLIDE



WORSHIP LED BY:
MATT PAPA

JULY 26, 2013 • JACKSON COLISEUM • 6:30 P.M.

For more information contact the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601-292-3278.

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Mission Strategy office of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
601-292-3231*

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BSU WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE 2013-14

All events are in the BSU Centegs, unless otherwise noted.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Noonday - Mon - 1:00pm, Thurs -
12:35pm
Prime Time Worship - every other Tues -
7:00pm

CO-LIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Praise/Worship - Mon - 6:15pm
Dorm Bible Studies - Tues - 8:00pm
Chapel - Wed - 11:00am

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Focus Worship - Mon - 6:30pm
Lunch Encounter Bible Study - Wed -
Noon

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 8:31pm
Lunch Encounter - Wed - Noon

GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jeff Davis Campus
Free Lunch - Wed - Noon

Jackson County Campus

Free Lunch - Tues - 12:30pm
Free Lunch - Wed - Noon

Perkinston Campus

Bible Study - Mon - 7:00pm
Free Lunch - Tues - 12:30pm

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Tues - 7:00pm
Lunch - Thurs - 12:30pm
Small Group Bible Study - Thurs - TBA

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Goodman Campus
Worship & Bible Study - Tues - 7:00pm
Lunch & Devotion - Thurs - 11:00am
Grenada Campus
Lunch & Devotion - Wed - Noon

Ridgeland Campus

Focus Factor - Wed - Noon

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 7:07 pm
Luncheon - Wed - 12:07pm

JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

Worship - Tues - 6:00pm
NOONDAY Lunch - Wed - 11:00am -
1:00pm

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Noonday - Wed - Chapel - 11:15am &
12:30pm
Gathering (Worship) - First Wed -
Chapel - 8:30pm

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Vision Worship - Mon - FBC Activities
Bldg - 6:30pm
Community Missions - Tues/Wed -
3:30pm

MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 7:00pm
Noonday Lunch & Devotion - Wed -
12:00pm

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Priority - Tues - Bible Study & Worship -
6:15pm
Noonday - Wed - Lunch & Bible Study -
Noon

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Weekly Meeting - Mon - 6:00pm
Noonday Lunch - Thurs - 12:30pm

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Tues - 6:30pm
Bible Study Luncheon - Thurs - 1
0:40am

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship & Bible Study - Tues - 7pm
Dorm Bible Studies - Wed Nights -
Time TBA
Free Lunch & Bible Study - Wed -
Noon - DeSoto Center

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 6:33pm
Lunch Encounter - Thurs - 11:00am
Lunch Encounter - Wed - Noon -
Hattiesburg Campus

SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship/Bible Study - Mon - 7:00pm
Noonday Lunch - Wed - 11:15am

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Main Event Worship - Tues - 7:00pm
Fresh Start/Freshmen - TBA
Transfers - Thurs - 7:00pm

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Coffeetalk - Mon - 8:00pm -
Internationals
6:01pm - Tues - Worship & Bible Study
12:01pm - Thurs - Lunch & Devotion

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

Campus LINK - Mon - Student Center
- 8:45pm
Priority Lunch - Tues - Student Center
- Noon
Prayer Breakfast - Fri - BSU Center -
9:25am

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JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS

OF THE JESUS BOOK SERIES 2014



September 9, 2013 - 100 - Townsend
September 10, 2013 - Blue Mountain College, Blue
Mountain, TN - 100 - Washington Hall, Room 100
September 11, 2013 - Mississippi Baptist Convention
Board, Jackson - 400 - 1000 - Sky Room
September 12, 2013 - University of Mississippi, University
Center, Oxford - 100 - 100 - Thomas Business
Building

Registration 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Preview Studies 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

New Clad

For more information, contact Cathy Taylor at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or E-mail: cday@mbcb.org

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lmiller@mbcb.org

Ministers' Wives Conference

Fellowship and Encouragement to Ministers' Wives

October 28, 2013

First Baptist Church, Jackson
1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Barbie Bassett

Contact Cathy Taylor in the Pastor/Leadership Dept. for registration
information. 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

ALL-STAR SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING

August 23 & 24, 2013 • First Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

Cost \$25 Registration Opens 6 p.m., Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – noon

Special Guests: David Francis, LifeWay • Sam Rainer III • Josh Hunt

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Contact us at 1-800-748-1651 ext. 291, or 601-292-3291, or cday@mbcb.org.

TOGETHER FOR CHRIST

September 24, 2013
Broadmoor Church, Madison

September 30, 2013
Harrisburg Church, Tupelo

PASTORS AND WORSHIP LEADERS
2013 WORKSHOPS

Please pre-register so that we might prepare materials. For further information contact:
Alan Woodward, Pastor/Leadership Development Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or
Sister Murphy, Church Music Department, 601-292-3267.



Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat

October 18-19, 2013

Fri., Oct. 18, 4:30 p.m. – Sat., Oct. 19, noon

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Taking the Pulse Rate of Human Trafficking

Special Guests: Dr. Kaye Wilson-Anderson (Portland, Oregon) will be our guest
trainer and Gertie Wells and Daughters (Crystal Springs) will be leading in worship.

For more information contact the Mississippi
WMU at 601-292-3317.

Mother/Daughter Overnight

Fri. October 18 – Sat. Oct. 19, 2013

5 p.m., Oct. 18 – 2 p.m., Oct. 19

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Mother/Daughter Overnight is a special time for mothers and daughters (Grades 1 – 6) to share at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center. Participants will have an opportunity to learn and spend time with missionaries. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts and recreation. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

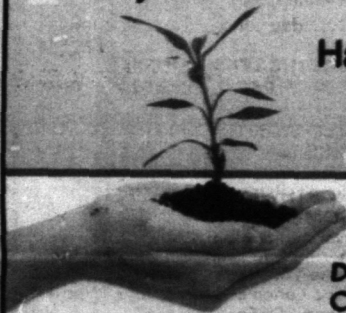
For more information contact the Mississippi WMU at
1-800-748-1651.

GROWING CHURCHES

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Association

Growing Churches Conference

Friday and Saturday, August 9 and 10, 2013



Harrisburg Baptist Church
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd
Tupelo, MS 38801

For more information contact the
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board at 601-292-3283

MOTIVATIONS

living with heart

Scheduling Suggestions

• Two-Sunday Format

- AM and PM presentations on Sunday 1
- Wednesday night presentation
- Commitment service on Sunday 2

• One-Sunday Format

- Session 1 in Sunday School
- Session 2 in Morning Worship
- Session 3 after a church-wide lunch
- Session 4 in Evening Worship

• Weekend Format

- Saturday night dinner
- AM and PM presentations on Sunday



For more information contact
Stewardship Department

Rick Blythe
Stewardship Director

Lisa Leavell
Ministry Assistant
800-748-1651, ext. 347
601-292-3347
leavell@mbcb.org

Resources Available

Poster, Guide, Inserts,
Resource CD & DVD
www.mbcb.org/
mission_strategy/
steward

Pray this day for...

July 12 - July 25, 2013

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it." Proverbs 15:16

Pray for a team of 10 from **LifePoint Church**, going to Zimbabwe, July 14-28, for church planting, evangelism.
Pray for a team of two from **Park Place BC, Brandon**, going to Alaska, July 14-21, for Children & Adults.

Pray for **Asbury & Jeannie Martin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for a team of 32 from **FBC, Corinth**, going to Haiti, July 15-22, for VBS & construction.

Pray for **Tom & Cynthia Martin**, missionaries ministering through the NAMB in Las Vegas, NV.

Pray for **John & Melinda Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through personalization & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of two from **New Sight BC, Brookhaven**, going to Port Republic, July 17-24, for discipleship & evangelism.

Pray for **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries to European Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries to European Peoples through theological education & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of 10 from **Overflow Church**, going to Kenya, July 17-24, for evangelism.

Pray for a team of four from **Providence BC, Hattiesburg**, going to Nicaragua, July 13-19, for medical & dental missions.
Pray for a team of 11 from **Highland BC, Senato-bia**, going to Ecuador, July 13-20, for evangelism, preaching, and teach children.

Pray for **Bob & Amy Little**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

Pray for a team of five from **Wildwood BC, Clinton**, going to Scotland, July 20-27.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

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Call Robin Nichols, MBCB, 601-292-3226
or visit our Web-site

http://www.mbc.org/business_services/fs/retirement.aspx

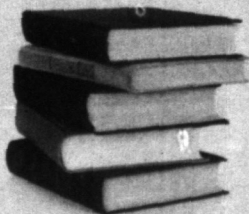
Church Library Ministry Annual State Meeting

Fri, Oct 4, 2013 – Sat, Oct 5, 2013

October 4, 9:00am – October 5, 12:30pm

First Baptist Church, Louisville

For more information on the meeting
and registration contact the Communication
Services Ministry of the MBCB at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 378.



9-2-03
MISS MIA
Parents: CJ & J
Restricted

9-03-03
MISS DARBY
Parents: J & K
Restricted

9-8-93
MR. NATHAN TILTON
Parents: J. & P.
Restricted

9-9-95
MISS EMILY C. HEWITT
Parents: Earl and Ramona
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

9-11-96
MISS HAYLEE HOLEMAN
Parents: Jeff and Liesa
American Peoples

9-19-12
MISS ABIGAIL
Parents: B & J
Restricted

9/12/99
MISS ANNA GRACE
Parents: Philip & Dawn
European Peoples

9-27-01
MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM
Parents: Tracy and Genie
European Peoples

Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

BAPTISTS Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope.

MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



HOUSE TOPS

BIBL iO C i P H E R

NRFC MVFKSLN NRUN O UZ VFN KOX-
MSH; UVH NRS GS OL VFVS
NRUN XUV HSJOQSG FCN FD NROVS
RUVH.

IFW NSV: LSQSV

Clue: O = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 28:10

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SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN SONTAG MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Interested applicants should be able to direct choirs and lead the congregation through traditional and contemporary music during worship services. Please send resumes to Shiloh Baptist Church PO Box 166 Sontag MS 39965 or email to esthermartin1958@hotmail.com.

IUKA BAPTIST CHURCH OF IUKA, MS IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR Denomination: Southern Baptist. Please send resumes to: ibcpastors@gmail.com or Pastor Search Committee, 130 Cypress St., Iuka, MS 38852.

HAMILTON BAPTIST CHURCH IN HAMILTON, MS IS SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to Larry Whitaker, Chairman, 40264 Hamilton Road, Hamilton, MS 39746

NEW BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED ON HWY 541 N. MAGEE, MS, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resume to New Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2242 Hwy 541 North, Mendenhall, MS 39114-5442.

CLASSIFIEDS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LECOMPTRE IS SEEKING A PASTOR. Send resume to: First Baptist Church Lecomptre, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 1070, Lecomptre, LA 71346 (15 minutes South of Alexandria, LA). Beautiful Campus - Great Growth Potential. Contact: 318-776-9487

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YOUTH

cont. from p. 1

available at mattpapa.com.

"These are men gifted with skills to communicate with this generation of students," Lum said.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and with a standing room only crowd expected Lum recommends an early arrival. Volunteer counselor training will take place at 6 p.m. in the coliseum.

"Each young person who makes a profession of faith will be able to talk with one of the trained volunteer counselors who will be on hand. There will be follow-up with the young person's home church or, if they are unchurched, a Mississippi Baptist church in their area," Lum said. "Ministers, counselors, and chaperones who wish to volunteer should be inside the coliseum at 6 p.m., when information on the training session will be announced from the stage."

A love offering will be taken, Lum said, and for the second year 100% of the offering will go toward a special project that makes Bibles available for distribution by young people on mission trips and at youth activities in which they are involved.

"Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is fully supported by the Mississippi Cooperation Program, and that makes 100% of the love offering available for the Bible distribution project," Lum said.

"Without question, today's students need to hear the truth of God's Word. Youth Night offers that opportunity," Lum stresses. "Put the date on your calendar and begin promoting this special event."

"I also encourage you to add Youth Night to your prayer list. Pray for the students, and pray that God will use Matt and Ed to connect with them."

For more information on Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, contact Lum at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: dum@mccb.org, or jellis@mccb.org.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 2013

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God Disciplines His People • 2 Kings 17:7-15, 18-20

An important aspect of God's Story is how He disciplines His people like a father chastens the son in whom he delights (Prov. 3:12). Only when I became a father did I understand my father's loving discipline. Similarly, God's discipline always was measured and gradual. He first warned His people through prophets. If they repented, He relented from judgment. If they refused to repent, God allowed the powerful armies of Israel's neighbors to overwhelm them. In 722 B.C. Samaria, Israel's capital city fell to the greater forces of the Assyrian army. God's people were judged for breaking the covenant. They were conquered and taken into exile. The horrific end of the northern kingdom, Israel, is recorded in 2 Kings 17. God does not tolerate sin.

God's People Sinned (2 Kings 17:7-11)

Discipline is the inevitable consequence of sin. God's deliverance of the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage was greeted with rebellion wherein Israel "sinned against the LORD their God" and "worshiped other gods" (2 Sam. 7:7; NIV). They reverted to the idolatrous practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before them (7:8a). Additionally, the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom that split from Judah after Solomon's death, had set up alternate shrines in Bethel and Dan to replace Jerusalem. They also selected non-Levitical

priests and set up alternate feast days (1 Kings 12:25-33; 2 Kings 17:8b). These alternatives to God's prescribed religion came to be known as Jeroboam's sin.

The notice in 17:9a, "The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right," indicates a clandestine carrying on of wicked behavior, driven by a delusion one could hide sin from God or at least from His prophets. The "high places" were shrines to fertility gods built atop high hills (17:9b). Attendant to worship of fertility gods were the "sacred stones" and "Asherah poles" venerating the Canaanite god Baal and his female consort Asherah (17:10). They "burned incense" to these false gods, provoking the LORD to anger (17:11).

God's People Were Warned (2 Kings 17:12-15)

When God's people sinned, He sent prophets to persuade them to repent or face impending judgment. My earthly father disciplined me many times during my growing up years, but each instance was

justified. So also in my spiritual life, my heavenly Father has had to discipline me at those times when I seemed unresponsive to His guidance in my life. I am grateful my earthly father and heavenly Father administered discipline in love. Their love included forewarning. I always knew what was expected of me, whether I obeyed or not!

Israel "worshiped idols," though the LORD had said, "You shall not do this" (7:12). God warned Israel and Judah "through all His prophets and seers" (7:13a). These spokesmen encouraged conformity to "the entire Law" (7:13b). The people responded with obstinacy. They would not listen, remained stiff-necked, and did not trust in the LORD their God (17:14). Further, they rejected His decrees and covenant, and ignored His warnings. In short, "they did the things the LORD had forbidden them to do" (7:15). Judgment was inevitable.

What about us? What worldly allurements entice us to disobey God today? Have we developed a theology of relating to God that assures of us eternal salvation while allowing us "the pleasure of sin for a

season?" Have we grown as spiritually insensitive to the LORD as ancient Israel did? If so, we should know that we, like they, have been warned.

God's People Were Disciplined (2 Kings 17:18-20)

The people's stubborn refusal to repent and to live for God resulted in the LORD becoming angry. So He removed Israel "from His presence" (7:18). What a tragedy! People so blessed by the LORD could not find it in their hearts to reciprocate His love, to follow His guidance, or to worship Him above false gods. Israel's wrongheadedness ill-effected Judah also, who "followed the practices Israel had introduced" (7:19). The LORD rejected Israel (7:20a). The same LORD, who had delivered them from their enemies earlier, now withdrew His presence, allowing those enemies to plunder them (7:20b).

That was then; this is now. God has been gracious to us also. Have we worshiped Him, living by His word? Are we less deserving of judgment than Israel? Because of professed faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and as our Lord, people should see a qualitative difference in our lives. Beware! God disciplines His people.

VanHorn is Dean of the Mississippi College School of Christian Studies and the Arts.



Bible Studies for Life
with W. Wayne VanHorn

What Am I Supposed to Learn? • Job 38:1-4; 42:1-12a

God brings an end to the debate between Job and his friends with a brewing storm, a whirlwind, through which he first speaks to Job. Elihu, though less than Job needed in a comforter, has spoken well and forced Job to look beyond himself and his suffering to a realm at the center of which is the omniscient God. The purpose of this speech is to honor God—causing Job to cease his complaining about God and to honor Him.

God answers Job's request by letting him know of His presence with him and ability to comfort him. He questions Job's knowledge and lack of it in as He reminds Job that He is the Creator of the world and asks him, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand." God graciously spoke to Job and revealed Himself as the all-powerful and all-knowing God of the universe.

God further rehearses for Job, in the form of questions, His knowledge of and care for the animals around Job and questions his knowledge of the same—all creatures, great and small, which he fears and does not understand. The ostrich and the war horse provide quite a contrast, yet both are God's creatures and worthy of Job's consideration. The closing verses describe birds of great power, flight, and swoop, extending God's dominion to in-

clude things in the air, as well as those that roam the land.

In Chapter 40, the LORD asks Job, "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? . . . Job has no answers for God, but is not yet ready to submit in repentance for his defiant argument with and wrongful accusation of Him. Few people easily and naturally submit themselves to another's authority—even to a loving God who desires only the best for the creations of His hands.

Again, God speaks to Job out of a whirlwind and tells him to be a man and that he will answer Him! God continues to converse with Job, but does not force him into submission. God wants Job to consider the irrational of his creation—"why does it rain where no one needs it?" (38:25ff) God establishes justice and provides salvation. Our responsibility is to determine where He is at work around us and answer His invitation to join Him.

In chapters 40 and 41, the hyperbole of the east (an extravagant exaggeration)

is applied for emphasis. God tells Job to look at the behemoth, a Hebrew word from which no positive identification can be made. It is a very remarkable creature, mammoth in size and strength, but eats only grass. To capture this animal, similar to a hippopotamus, by conventional methods is "virtually impossible."

Next, God cites the Leviathan as an illustration of His superior power and wisdom.

The word Leviathan is also a Hebrew derivative from two words meaning "twisting" and "monster," and has no positive identification, but possibly resembling a crocodile. This creature is equaled by none on the earth and looks down on all that are haughty—"he is king over all that are proud." (41:34)

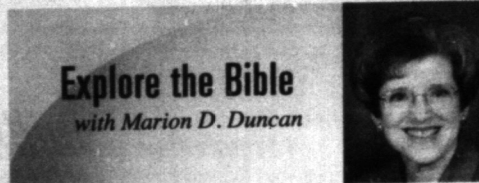
As is revealed in chapter 42, Job shifted his focus from demanding answers, which the LORD never provided, to gaining peace by submitting to the LORD. Job understood that God was saying to him that he was to realize who God is and to submit to

Him in faith regardless of what happens. Job admits that God is omnipotent with unlimited power and has a plan that cannot be interfered with nor halted. Job acknowledged his presumption and submitted to the LORD, repenting of his words spoken in ignorance. We, also, are to acknowledge God as the sovereign LORD of all and humbly submit ourselves to Him, even when we cannot explain all of His ways.

The importance of intercessory prayer is evidenced as Job obeyed God and interceded for his friends. God was angry with Job's friends because they had spoken falsely concerning Him. It was after Job expressed concern for his friends and prayed for them to receive God's grace that he could receive the blessing of multiplied prosperity God had for him. This is not God's promise to restore all losses or to fully reward His people in this life. The most valuable blessings God gives us are those that last for eternity—especially that of living in fellowship with Him.

One purpose of the Book of Job is to teach the reality that not all suffering is the direct result of people's sins and need not rob people of their faith in the sovereign loving God.

Duncan is a member of First Church, Starkville.



Explore the Bible
with Marion D. Duncan

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Silver Creek Church, MoComb:** Marvelous Mondays, 6:30 p.m.; July 15, Wayne VanHorn, speaker; Adrian Wood, music; July 22, Daniel Caldwell, speaker; Adrian Wood, music; July 29,

David Millican, speaker; Phillip Alford, music.

► **Pineview Church, Laurel:** Homecoming, July 14; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Freddie Odum, speaker.

► **Ebenezer Church, Lexington:** Homecoming and revival, July 14-17; Sun., services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Clarence Young,

speaker; Sun. - Wed., dinner, 6 p.m.; services, 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Alisa Drake, pianist.

► **Sault Valley Church, Monticello:** Revival, July 14-17; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bendon Ginn, speaker; Phillip Alford, music.

► **Moak's Creek Church, Summit:** Revival, July 14-17; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and afternoon service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Brent Rutland, speaker; Tom Walsh, music; Mike Alexander, pastor.

► **Goodwater Church, Smith County:** Homecoming, July 14; worship, 11 a.m., followed by cov-

ered dish lunch and cemetery association meeting; Roger Barnes, speaker.

► **Steele Church, Forest:** Revival, July 14-17; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; John Sharp, interim pastor; Tony Massey, minister of music.

Just for the Record



FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, recently gave their new pastor and his family an old-fashioned pounding. Shown are Jay and Amy Anderson.



BUNKER HILL CHURCH, COLUMBIA, honored its high school seniors with breakfast and recognition May 13. Shown are Jan Holman, Conner Sears, Sara Randall, and Cody Magee.



Nine girls from **CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, attended GA Camp at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. Shown are Makayla Martin, Chloe Fahner, Riley Watts, Georganna Allen, Alece Nettles, Autumn Crosby, Allie Grace Crosby, Julie Ann Barton, and Caroline Douglas.



The high school seniors of **PARKWAY CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO**, were honored May 19 with a fellowship meal and new Bible. Shown are Jimmy Thornhill, minister of music and youth; and seniors Matt Taylor, Emily Ray, Daniel Fortenberry, and Kaleb Ellis; and Derrick Wilson, pastor.

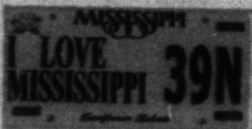


RANKIN ASSOCIATION delivered 300 encouragement bags to the Cancer Center at Baptist Hospital, Jackson. Tonya Ball, Navigator at the Cancer Center, and Allen Stephens, ADM for Rankin Association, are shown beside the cart of bags. The bags will be distributed to all new cancer patients. The association has churches signed up for a year of mission outreach with this project.

NEW POLICY FOR PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Effective with the July 11, 2013 issue of The Baptist Record, all photographs submitted for publication in the newspaper must be sent via e-mail as a jpeg attachment (.jpg). Because of the cost and inconvenience of submitting a printed photograph (which involves taking a digital photograph, having it processed and printed, and the cost of postage involved in mailing), we are making this change to help both the sender and The Baptist Record to be good stewards. Photos can be submitted to The Baptist Record via e-mail at no cost, as opposed to the costs noted above. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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IT CAN!!!
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AVAILABLE AT YOUR
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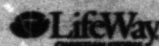
> The **Mississippi Campers on Mission** will celebrate 35 years of RV travel and ministry at the Columbia Expo Center in Columbia. The rally is July 31 – Aug. 4, with a homecoming celebration Aug. 2, noon – 2 p.m. For more information, call Jim Pender at (662) 803 – 2633 or email webmaster@ms-com.org.

> **Cross Road Church, Pelahatchie**, will host a reception honoring pastor John Vaughn and his wife, Kathy, July 21, 2 – 4 p.m., celebrating 10 years of service.

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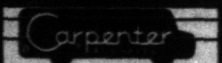
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